

# Be an Inclusive Child Care Provider!

## What is Inclusion?

Inclusion is the educational practice of educating and caring for children with special needs in the same environment as children of typical development. In an inclusive program; children with and without special needs take part in the same daily activities and in the same environment. Providers make creative modifications that allow each child present to participate.



## What experience to do I need?

Screening and inclusion training is strongly recommended for all child care providers interested in caring for children with special needs. In order to properly care for children with special needs you must first be able to properly identify children who may need specialized care. Providers then must be able to tap into a “specialized” skill set and think of new and different ways to do things that meet the needs of all children.

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## Where do I start?

Start by making sure your daily routines and activities support optimal development in all developmental domains. Develop curriculum based on what you already know about child development and developmentally appropriate practices and find creative and innovative ways to include children of all ability levels. An inclusive program is first of all a good early childhood program.

## How are families involved?

Family members of special needs children often have a great deal to teach professionals because they have an intimate knowledge of their child and their particular impairment. Greater family and community involvement is essential to the inclusion process. Make an effort to engage families in goal setting and the planning of activities.



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## Benefits of inclusion for students with disabilities:

- Friendships
- Increased social interactions
- Peer role models for academic, social and behavior skills
- Increased achievement of individual goals
- Greater access to general curriculum
- Increased inclusion in future environments
- Greater opportunities for interactions
- Higher expectations
- And more...

## Benefits of inclusion for students without disabilities:

- Meaningful friendships
- Increased appreciation and acceptance of individual differences
- Increased understanding and acceptance of diversity
- Respect for all people
- Prepares students for adult life in an inclusive society
- Opportunities to master activities by practicing and teaching others
- Greater academic outcomes



## What are the Disadvantages?

Research shows that there are NO negative effects from inclusion when done appropriately and with the necessary supports and services.

## RESOURCES

- DEC Recommended Practices <http://www.dec-sped.org/dec-recommended-practices>
- A Thinking Guide to Inclusive Child Care, Disability Rights Wisconsin <http://www.disabilityrightswi.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/02/thinking-guide-to-inclusive-child-care.pdf>
- Quality Inclusion Indicators, The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) <http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/qualityindicatorsinclusion.pdf>

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- The Registry Training Calendar <https://www.the-registry.org>
- Wisconsin Early Care Association (WECA) Training Calendar <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/>
- Collaborating Partners Training Calendar <http://www.collaboratingpartners.com/>

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